

STATEMENT

by. Prof. Dr. Maria Angelova, MD,

Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Faculty of Medicine
at Trakia University

of a dissertation on the topic **"Adolescent pregnancy and childbirth – current problems and solutions"** for awarding the scientific and educational degree "Doctor". Scientific specialty 03.01.45. "Obstetrics and Gynecology".

Author: Dr. Antonio Hristov Dushepeev

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Emil Georgiev Kovachev, MD

Doctoral Student Data – Biographical Data and Career Development

Dr. Antonio Hristov Dushepeev was born on 15.01.1962 in Burgas. In 1989 he graduated from the Medical University of Varna, majoring in Medicine.

He acquired a specialty in "Obstetrics and Gynecology" in 1995.

Since 1993 until now, he has worked in "UMHAT - Burgas" AD. Since 2009 he has been Head of the Maternity Department at the same hospital. He has been responsible for assisted reproduction since 2016. Dr. Asen Zlatarov, Faculty of Medicine. He has specializations in Bulgaria and abroad in the field of assisted reproduction, endocrinological gynecology, infant mortality, pathology of pregnancy, laparoscopy, etc.

He is fluent in English, written and spoken. His main professional activities and interests are in the field of obstetrics and assisted reproduction.

The candidate has 10 publications in Bulgarian and foreign journals and 3 participations in scientific forums.

Actuality of the dissertation

Over the past three decades, no systematic work has been done on this topic and there are no distinct publications by Bulgarian authors. Many of the problems and solutions associated with adolescent pregnancy are debatable and are not based on in-depth clinical and statistical data.

The dissertation developed by Dr. Antonio Dushepeev contains 149 pages, including 71 figures and 39 tables. The literary sources used include 182 titles, of which 3 are in Cyrillic and 179 in Latin. The publications related to the dissertation are 2. The dissertation of Dr. Antonio Dushepeev begins with an introduction to the topic. The author presents an extended and detailed literature review of a current study on adolescent pregnancy, childbirth and associated problems and complications.

The purpose of the dissertation is clearly formulated and corresponds to the topic. For the fulfillment of the scientific goal, the dissertation has set itself 7 tasks. For this purpose, he has made a retrospective study of 14,936 pregnancies admitted and managed in the Maternity Department and the Gynecology Department of UMHAT – Burgas AD in the period 2016 – 2022.

1290 are pregnancies in adolescence, defined by the WHO up to 20 years.

Spontaneous abortions, abortions on demand and those for medical reasons are discussed in a separate chapter in detail.

For the purposes of this work, in order to differentiate, emphatically, the characteristics of the appearance, course and outcome of juvenile pregnancies, the author has determined the upper limit at 18 years of age on the day of birth. This is in line with the practice of similar studies, duly cited in the literature review. With the same motives, this clinical group is divided into two subgroups – 10 – 15 years old – 310 /24.03% / and 16-18 years old - 980 / 75.97% / .

A total of 1039 births were analyzed, of which 1024 live births and 15 stillbirths, for the entire period.

The first clinical subgroup consisted of 242 pregnant women, and the second – of 797.

All periods of A.B. were examined in detail, and the results obtained, where necessary, were compared with those of a control group consisting of 120 pregnant women aged 20-24 years.

Where available, the results of the analysis are compared with the entire contingent of pregnant women and women who have given birth at UMHAT - Burgas between 2016-2022.

For processing the data from the study related to the dissertation, the following statistical packages, application programs and applications are used:

- 1) Data processing and analysis using spreadsheets (MS Excel 2019) – to apply descriptive statistics, compliance tests, distribution laws, graphical representation of data and analysis results.
- 2) Package of application programs for statistical analysis, interpretation and presentation of data SPSS (SPSS Inc., IBM SPSS Statistics) and medical statistical software MedCalc (© 2023 MedCalc Software Ltd) - for procedures for analysis of variance, correlation and regression analysis, graphical representation of data and analysis results.

For the purposes of statistical analysis, the following categories and methods are used:

- 1) Variational Analysis:
- 2) Frequency analysis of qualitative variables
- 3) Graphs, tables and diagrams.

Dr. Dushepeev's scientific work ends with 12 conclusions on the topic. They are meaningful, correspond to the tasks set and fully prove the purpose and implementation of the problems being developed. The dissertation has 9 confirmatory and 12 original contributions and are described in detail in the context of the development and the literature review.

The financial "cost" of adolescent pregnancy and childbirth is considered. Additional confirmation of the reliability of the covered clinical group was received – the percentage of adolescent pregnancies coincided to a very large extent with the percentage of payments from the budget of Bulgaria and the NHIF to the contingent discussed in the dissertation.

In conclusion: The dissertation of Dr. Antonio Dushepeev has an undeniable and modern scientific contribution to clarifying the frequency, course, complications of pregnancy and concomitant diseases in the occurrence, development and completion of adolescent pregnancy. The original contributions bring new

information that would significantly affect the approach to the management of adolescent pregnancy and is a stable basis for future studies and topics.

In addition, professionals working in the field of obstetrics receive specific and reliable information about the profile of operative activity during childbirth, the medical reasons for operative births and the characteristics of the postnatal period, which should have a positive impact on their daily practice.

The scientific work has all the technical characteristics and requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor".

I give a positive assessment of the scientific work and express my opinion to the esteemed scientific jury to award Dr. Antonio Hristov Dushepeev the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecologists.

08.04.2025
Stara Zagora

Prepared the opinion:
/ Prof. Dr. Maria Angelova, MD/

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679